DPI PROGRAMME Update

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

31 DECEMBER, 1993

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UPCOMING EVENTS

PREPCOM FOR 1995 WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, New York, 31 Jan. to 11 Feb., 1994.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, inter-sessional meeting on draft Platform for Action, New York, 10-14 Jan. 1994.

WOMENS DAY, 8 March, 1994.

WORLD WATER DAY, 22 March, 1994.

Multilateralism is policy of the UN, says Secretary-General

During his recent visit to Japan, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali called for "a democratic efficient United Nations, working for consensus-based action by Member States, through multilateralism". In an address to the Foreign Correspondents Club in Tokyo on 20 December, he explained that "multilateralism is a way for all States to join in creating the post-cold-war order", it is "the policy expression of the idea of the United Nations".

"A truly representative Security Council is an important step towards multilateralism", the Secretary-General continued. The reform of the Security Council would include expansion of the membership of the Council and the question of veto rights. The legitimacy of the United Nations, its capacity to become a force for peace, development and democracy are "a triangle for concern" in the twenty-first century, he pointed out. (Press release SG/SM/5184, 20 December, 1993)

The General Assembly has established an Open-ended Working Group to consider all aspects of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council. *(A/RES/48/26).*

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Safety and security of UN staff

The safety of UN staff in peacekeeping missions and relief workers is the subject of a new resolution adopted by the General Assembly (GA/RES/48/37).

New Zealand has proposed a Convention under which those responsible for attacks on UN and associated personnel would be prosecuted.

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1993 Contributions to UNHCR surpass $1 billion

The leading donors are the US, the European Community, and Japan.
(Press release REF / 1057, 23 Dec. 1993)

SECRETARY-GENERAL SPEAKS

continued from cover page,
speech delivered in Tokyo...

Cost of Peace-keeping

The cost of peace-keeping in 1993 has been "high in terms of resources, but even higher in terms of lives lost", the Secretary-general said, and as "peace-keepers have themselves become the targets of hostilities, brave lives are lost to keep the peace". The enthusiasm for peace-keeping has declined as a result.

Meanwhile, he said, "from Angola to Yugoslavia, from Abkhazia to Somalia, men, women and children are dying ... the United Nations cannot pick and choose" whom to help. To the UN, every conflict is equally in need of action; no suffering is more deserving than another.

To enable the UN to carry out its work for peace, the Secretary-General called for continued flow of resources and commitment from Member States. If not, the United Nations will be powerless to carry out its tasks, and conflicts will continue unabated, he said.

Climate Change Convention enters into force on 21 March 1994

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has called for the continuing improvement of the scientific and technical understanding of the causes and impact of climate change and of the various options for responding to it.

In a statement issued on 21 December to announce the 50th ratification of the Convention and its entry into force on 21 March 1994, he said the treaty addresses one of the greatest challenges facing the global community.

The treaty aims at shifting to sustainable productions and consumption that will protect the national and global environment, while improving the well-being of people in industrialized and industrializing countries, the statement said.

(Press release SG/SM/5186, 21 Dec. 1993)

Universal Declaration on Human Rights is "monumental step forward", says Secretary-General

The United Nations and its Member States bear a special responsiblity to secure and advance the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Secretary-General said in his 1993 Human Rights Day message. "In the last 45 years, the words of the Declaration have been heard around the globe, he continued. "It has been accepted by Governments in increasing number; it is a practical instrument for action by each individual", he said.

Last year, the Vienna Declaration called on all States to observe international standards, to ratify international instruments and to strengthen the mechanisms of human rights. "It calls us to work to end extreme poverty — for human rights mean little to those struggling for survivial", he pointed out.

(Press Release SG/SM/5176, HRD/153, 9 Dec. 1993)

Healthy Cities Conference

"The health of urban dwellers, taken in the widest sense, is a major problem of societies today", the Secretary-General said in his message to the International Healthy Cities and Communities Conference, held in San Francisco from 8-11 December. The growth of urban areas often causes pollution and congestion, spreading to the countryside. City planning, architecture, local politics and economics, and the sustainable relation between town and country should be studied in order to improve the environment of cities, he said.

At the World Summit to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995, the themes of urbanization will be a vital part of the agenda, the message said.

(Press release SG/SM/5175, 8 Dec. 1993)

DPI ACTIVITES

EVALUATION OF DPI MEDIA TRAINING

This year's DPI Training Programme for Broadcasters and Journalists provided 18 young journalists from developing countries with first-hand knowledge about the UN system. The six week Programme was also an opportunity to improve their skills in a three-day writing workshop rated by the participants as "most useful"and several day-long workshops in radio and TV journalism. A special workshop was held on techniques of environmental reporting.

The participants met in panel discussions with UN officials and outside resource persons. The journalists were also able to visit the New York Times, Time Magazine, WCBS Radio and Global Vision (independent TV production company) in New York. They visited the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the US State Department, Intelsat, Voice of America and the Foreign Press Centre in Washington D.C.

COUNTRIES TAKING PART IN THE PROGRAMME THIS YEAR:

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Suriname, Uganda, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Programme was established in 1980 by the General Assembly. To date, 227 broadcasters and journalists from developing countries have participated in the Programme.

Improvement of Programme

The DPI Media Training Programme is a General Assembly-mandated Programme and the only one of its kind offered at UN Headquarters. Based on feedback received from participants, it has been an extremely valuable experience. For future sessions, however, it is suggested that the selection of participants should adhere more carefully to the established criteria. The UN Information Centres have a crucial role to play in the process. To qualify, candidates should be young journalists working in newspapers, radio or television. Another suggestion was made to shorten the programme, concentrating on "hands-on training".

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR UN STAFF

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The Assembly decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate an international Convention. (A/48/618.)

Speaking at a panel discussion organized by the UN Staff Union on Human Rights Day, Ambassador Colin Keating of New Zealand said we should not forget UN staff members' human rights. "The protagonists in many conflicts world-wide are often not members of the UN and not even recognized as States, so they do not comply with international conventions", he said. New Zealand, currently member of the Security Council, is calling for more awareness of the risk facing UN staff on mission. Ever since the Security Council mandated UN peace-keeping to use force in carrying out certain missions, as is the case with the UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), UN staff can become targets for attacks by the parties in a conflict, if the UN is perceived to be taking sides. An international Convention authorising prosecution of those responsible would offer legal protection to UN staff.

DPI ACTIVITES...*continued from page 3*

ONE MILLION SEE UN PAVILION AT TAEJON EXPO 1993

The UN had a commanding presence at the most recent world fair, the Taejon International Exposition, which opened from 7 August to 7 November, 1993, in the Republic of Korea. With 108 countries attending, over one million enjoyed the UN Pavilion during its three months duration.

The UN Pavilion, a cube of 524 square metres rising to three storeys in height, housed exhibits on the UN system's work in Development and Environment, themes echoed in the overall Exposition theme - "The Challenge of the New Road to Development".

STAFF VISITS TO NEW YORK

UNIC Buenos Aires

Timothy Painter, UNDP Resident Representative and Acting Director, UNIC Buenos Aires, called on DPI colleagues during a brief visit to Headquarters on 20 and 21 December, 1993.

Mr. Painter spoke of the Centre's 1994 information plans, which include preparations for the Latin American Regional PrepCom for the 1995 United Nations Conference on Women. This PrepCom will be held 26-30 September 1994 in Buenos Aires. UNIC Buenos Aires is also planning a Model UN session involving the participation of 50 state schools.

UNIC Tehran

Michael v.d. Schulenburg, UNDP Resident Representative and Acting Director of UNIC Tehran, visited UN Headquarter on 21 December, 1993, for a brief meeting with DPI colleagues.

UNIC Acuncion

Ms. Katica Cekalovic, UNDP Resident Representative and Director of UNIC Acuncion, visited UN Headquarters on 9 December for an exchange of views and ideas with DPI colleagues.

NEWS

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Summary of 1993 Observances

(data received from UNICs / UNISs through 20 December 1993)

The observance of Human Rights Day and the first anniversary of the declaration of the Year of Indigenous People provided UNICs with opportunity to showcase year-long efforts in bringing these issues to the public through local media, NGOs, civic and educational institutions. The results include sheaves of clippings from all parts of the world, with coverage of the Secretary General's message, editorial comments and UNICs activities.

The Secretary General's message this year reached citizens in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Italy, and Portugal in their own languages. The BBC, the European Broadcasting Union, All India Radio (with its estimated 45 million listeners), and national radio stations of Algiers, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia (which in addition, used 10 Human Rights Spots starting two weeks prior to December 10), Pakistan, the Philippines, Spain, Tunisia, Vatican and Australia all marked the day with special programmes, including interviews with Centre Directors.

Television coverage was provided by Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBS) and MTV Europe based in London; five channels in the Philippines; the national stations in Azerbaijan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Colombia, Tunis, Pakistan, Panama, Portugal and Spain. In Panama, Channel 5 TV broadcast each of the 30 articles of the Declaration on Human Rights over a five-day period

Official recognition

Government officials gave their support to human rights through statements and participation in public events. President elect Eduardo Frei of Chile participated in an official ceremony; President Abdou Deouf and Mrs. Deouf of Senegal sponsored an exhibit and a human rights sculpture competition. The President of Tunisia, Zine Abidine Ben

Ali, made a statement reaffirming his country's support for protection and promotion of human rights. The Government of Madagascar and Morocco issued an official statement. UNIC Manila reports that President Fidel Ramos issued a statement, and the Commissioner of Human Rights presented the advocacy award to Justice Cecilia Munoz Palma while the NGO EARTHSAVERS presented Human Rights Awards to Indigenous Leaders.

Public Ceremonies

UNIC Washington reports a programme co-sponsored by the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The Director for Human Rights of the UN/OAS Mission in Haiti and the senior advisor for the NGO Medecins sans Frontiers participated in the discussion. In London, jointly with the British UNA and Amnesty International, a special inter-faith service was held with hundreds of participants. The SG's message was read, and the meeting was addressed by the Special UN Rapporteur on Torture. A Declaration on the Human Rights problems of Zaire was drafted by the Comité de Droites de l'Homme which represents Zairian NGOs working with human rights issues. UNIC New Delhi reports six major functions organized by NGOS: the Indian Law Institute, the All India Women's Conference, the Commonwealth Human Rights Foundation, the International Institute of Human Rights Society and the Indian Federation of UN Association.

UNIC Sydney reports that statements were made by the Secretary General's newly appointed Special Representative for Human Rights in Cambodia, Justice Michael Kirby and by Mr. Patrick Dodson, Chair of the Aboriginal Reconciliation Council. UNIC Tokyo exhibited six Flags with the Human Rights logo and signatures of the Mayors of major Japanese cities.

The minister of Justice of Italy launched a Decade for Education in Human Rights. The Minister of Humanitarian Action sponsored a play performed at the Trianon Theatre in Paris.

UN AND *PANAMA* DEVELOP POST ELECTION AGENDA

A United Nations move to help the Panamanian leadership map out national priorities before a new government is elected next year, has facilitated the charting of a post-election development agenda for the country.

At a UN-convened retreat in the mountain resort town of Bambito, 300 miles from the capital, representatives of the country's political, clergy and private sectors adopted the Bambito Declaration, in which they pledged to continue to work towards transparent elections and consolidated democracy in their country.

The UN initiative — "Unidad y Desarollo Humano" or "Unity and Human Development" — is an effort to assist Panama in fighting off the effects of years of economic and political crisis. Agreement came after two days of talks convened by UNIC/UNDP Director Eduardo Niño-Moreno, last August.

Prospects for national unity and the beginning of a dialogue for development appeared to be even more real during the two-day encounter as two former Latin American Presidents —Belisario Betancour of Colombia and Julio Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay — joined in discussions with the leaders of 18 Panamanian political parties, many of whom had not faced each other in years.

In the intense deliberations the delegates sifted through ideas and clarified their positions on the social and political issues that would be incorporated into the electoral platform of each of the political parties.

An Advance Look at the Country's Priorities

"UN system participation in the development process has taken a new turn", says Mr. Niño-Moreno. "By helping the parties shape their development manifestos in these discussions, the United Nations system will be better able to build a frame-

work for future national programmes in Panama, both for development and information purposes", he says.

Since the platform of the winning party will become the platform on which the country stands following the elections, UN system partners are grateful for the opportunity they were given to take an advance look at Panama's priorities and to become familiar with the ideas of today's political leaders who are poised to become the Organization's development partners tomorrow. Among Panama's main national concerns are crime, corruption, poor public health, hygiene and education services, and "the lack of social stimulus necessary for the peaceful co-existence of all people", identified in the Bambito Declaration.

Prompt Action Urged

In many follow-up articles and editorials, the Panamanian press hailed the bold UN initiative and confirmed its importance as a step in the right direction. "The Bambito Declaration must not stay on paper", said one newspaper in an opinion piece. Another, La Estrella de Panama recalled that many declarations had been adopted and many promises made to the Panamanian people, and urged prompt action. "Our bookshelves cannot bear the weight of heavy books containing all types of pronouncements", the paper said. "We call for action and social pragmatism".

Yvonne Duncan, Regional Desk Officer, Latin America and the Caribbean

NPT PrepCom

PrepCom for 1995 Conference of parties to the treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will be held from 17 to 21 January, 1994, at UN headquarters.

BRIEFS

UNIC Tokyo - "The UN and NGOs - From Observer to Partner" is the title of an article in the latest issue of "Peace Studies", published by the Peace Studies Association in Japan. The author of the article is Mr. Norio Umahashi, Senior Reference Assistant, UNIC Tokyo. He is a member of the academic Association, which focuses on peace research in the post cold war era.

In his article, Mr. Umahashi reviews the new role of the NGOs at the UN, citing the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) as a turning point when the UN allowed NGOs to take part in the Conference from the preparatory stages. "The role of the NGOs at the UN has been enhanced so much that they are being promoted from 'observers' to 'partners'", writes Mr. Umahashi. In Japan, however, he says, the role and achievements of NGOs are not appropriately defined or evaluated yet. The relationship between Government and NGOs should be changed from "traditional confrontation-oriented to cooperation-oriented".

Yousef Hamdan, Regional Desk Officer, Asia and the Pacific

UNIC Geneva - In a recent informal ceremony at Palais de Nations, visitor number 100,000 to the UN Office in 1993 was received by a representative of Director General Vladimir Petrovski. Several local newspapers carried the story saying that the high number of visitors is a reflection of the growing public interest in UN matters.

UNIO Georgia - UNIO Georgia drew the attention of national media to World Aids Day, 1 December. In observance of the Day, Georgian Television broadcast a 10 minutes programme on AIDS, and the local newspaper, Novaya Gazeta published an interview with the Head of the State Centre for AIDS, Dr. Tangia Tsertsvadze. He stated that although only 16 people in Georgia have been treated with HIV, the real number might be higher. Due to the widespread drug addiction, experts esti-

mate the number to be 20,000 by the year 2000. Dr. Tsertsvadze expressed hope that the media will help draw the attention of Georgian public to the problem of AIDS.

UNIC New Delhi - To mark the Year of the Indigenous People, UNIC New Delhi recently arranged a three-day exhibit of posters, photographs, videos, artefacts, and screenings of videos, provided by the Australian High Commission and the American Centre in New Delhi. The Exhibit, held at India International Centre, a leading meeting place for intellectuals. The exhibit was covered by Hindu, a local newspaper, which wrote that the Year "aims at strengthening international cooperation for solution of problems faced by indigenous communities in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education and health".

Chairman of Group of 77

The new Chairman of the Group of 77 in 1994 is the Permanent Representative of Algeria. The formal turnover of the chairmanship will be marked at a closed ceremonial meeting of the Group of 77 at the Ambassadorial level on 14 January.

World Education Report, 1993, UNESCO.

The World Education Report, issued every two years by UNESCO, points out that the knowledge gap between developed and developing countries has become wider. In many sub-Saharan African countries, the situation for school-age children is catastrophic, it says. In Niger, for example, the period a five-year old child can be expected to remain in school is 2.1 years, the report says.

Poster on Women in Parliament

The number of women represented in parliament world-wide vary from region to region. For example, in Ireland, 12.1 per cent of representatives in parliament are women, while in Finland the number is 39 per cent. The United States has 10.8 per cent women in the House of Representatives and Turkey, 1.8 per cent. The Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) is the international organization which brings together the representatives of the Parliaments of Sovereign States.

The poster can be obtained by contacting:

IPU, Place du Petit Saconnex, B.P. 438,
1211 GENEVA 19, SWITZERLAND
TEL: (4122) 734-41-50
FAX: (4122) 733-31-41

NGO SECTION

THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

NGO briefing, 28 October, 1993

Speaker: Mr. Anil Wadhwa, Head of Public Affairs and Media Branch of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the PrepCom for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The Convention on Chemical Weapons

Mr. Anil Wadhwa told NGO representatives that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their destruction (CWC) was adopted by the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva on 3 September 1992. It was opened for signature in January 1993 in Paris, 154 States had signed it and four had ratified it. CWC will enter into force 180 days after the 65th ratification, but not earlier than January 1995.

The Convention replaces its weak predecessor, the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which only bans the use of Chemical Weapons in warfare, and does not contain any verification provisions.

Main Provisions

The Convention defines chemical weapons as all "toxic chemicals". It prohibits all development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer, and use of Chemical Weapons. It requires each party to destroy their chemical weapons and production facilities. The use of riot control chemicals —which cause rapid sensory irritation or disabling physical effects that disappear in a short time — is also banned as a method of warfare. Trade and sharing of information on chemicals for peaceful uses as well as development and promotion of scientific and technological knowledge in the field of chemistry are protected. The implementation of the provisions of CWC will require sustained public interest and support, said Mr. Wadhwa.

Destruction

The Chemical Weapons Convention is the first multi-laterally negotiated treaty which demands that an entire category of weapons of mass destruction be eliminated completely.

Each member state must pay the cost of the destruction of their chemical arsenal. Methods of destruction will be determined by Member States except ocean dumping, burial, and open pit burning. State parties to the Convention must declare whether they possess chemical weapons within 30 days of its entry into force and provide general plans for their destruction. Compliance will be assured through three methods of verification: reporting requirements, routine on-site inspections, and challenge inspections.

During these inspections, inspectors will have the right to unimpeded access into storage and destruction facilities. They may use monitoring devices and seals to ensure that the facilities are not being used.

Institutions under the Convention

The Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) was established in February 1993 to enhance the dissemination of information to States parties on all aspects of the Convention. The PTS works with governments, chemical industry representatives, and NGOs to ensure that States Parties meet the necessary requirements of the Convention.

At the time of the entry into force of the Convention, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) will be established in The Hague. It will be composed of a Conference of States Parties, the highest organ, meeting annually and when necessary for special cases. Forty-one representatives from the Member countries, from different regions, will be elected to an Executive

Council overseeing the activities of OPCW. A Technical Secretariat will be responsible for carrying out the verification activities related to the Convention. The Conference will also have the power to suspend a violator's rights or recommend collective measures, such as sanctions to ensure compliance with the Convention. When warranted, the Conference may inform the General Assembly and Security Council of violations, said Mr. Wadwha.

WORLD AIDS DAY

Elizabeth Reid, Director of HIV and Development, UNDP, was the speaker at the NGO briefing on AIDS on 2 December, 1993. The UNDP film, "The Orphan Generation" was screened showing the impact of the HIV virus on children and their parents in Uganda.

UPCOMING NGO BRIEFINGS

13 JANUARY, 1994: Global Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Developing Island States. Speaker: Miles Stoby, Director, ECOSOC Affairs and Inter-Agency Coordination Division.

21 JANUARY: 48th Session of the General Assembly. Speaker: S.A. Insanally, President of the General Assembly.

27 JANUARY: UN and the Middle East Peace Process. Speaker: Mustapha Tlili, Chief, Anti-apartheid, Palestine and Decolonization Section, PERD, DPI.

GENEVA REPORT

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR CRIMES IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA BEGINS WORK

The International Tribunal for Crimes in former Yugoslavia has begun to formulate Rules of Procedure and Evidence at its first session in The Hague, which it expects to complete at its next session in January. Set up under Security Council resolution 882 (1993) and inaugurated on 17 November, the Tribunal should begin to receive cases brought before it by the Prosecutor by its April-July session.

The Tribunal has sent a letter to the Secretary-General and the Security Council, requesting that States be asked to urgently adopt national legislation to give effect to the Statute of the Tribunal. States would also be asked to appoint high-level officials who would serve as liaison with the Tribunal.

Deterrence, Justice and Peace

The establishment of the Tribunal and its judiciary action constitutes one of the four pillars of the UN strategy for dealing with the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The other three are peace negotiations, humanitarian assistance, and peace-keeping. Through the creation of the Tribunal, the UN has shown its determination to halt mass killings, shelling of civilian population, the practice of ethnic cleansing, the systematic detention and rape of women, and to hold those responsible accountable before the law of nations.

The Tribunal has three important goals: to put an end to the crimes being committed--deterrence, to bring to justice the persons responsible for those crimes, and provide for prosecution and judgement under the rule of law, thereby contributing to restoration and maintenance of peace.

Enforcement

Established under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Tribunal will be able to enforce its decisions through the Security Council, which has the power

to impose sanctions or military force. Such action would be taken if the States concerned refuse to gather evidence, hear witnesses or arrest and surrender the accused.

Persons who have committed serious violations of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law, will be held individually responsible. International humanitarian law is binding on every nation and on every citizen of every nation. Every investigation will be conducted with full respect for the rights of the suspect or accused.

The Tribunal expects to meet in The Hague 17 January through 11 February, 25 April through 29 July and 19 September through 3 November 1994.

UN WILL COMPENSATE VICTIMS OF GULF WAR

The UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) has begun reviewing 1,100 of the 3100 compensation claims received from those who suffered personal losses and injury during the Gulf War.

Ambassador Carlos Alzamora, the Executive Secretary of the Commission, has announced that a three-member Panel of Commissioners will review the 1,100 claims and present them to the UNCC Governing Council for approval within 120 days, by April 1994.

Category A - claims for departure from Kuwait or Iraq

Category B - claims for death and serious injuries

Category C - claims for individual losses up to $100,000.

Claims B

First, the Panel of Commissioners will consider claims in category B. Approximately 30 percent of the death and serious personal injury claims submitted so far are expected to result in payments totalling $3-5 million by April 1994. On acceptance of their claims involving deaths, individuals will receive $2,500, while families will receive a maximum of $10,000. Though the majority of the claims are from Kuwait and Jordan, some are also from Australia, Bahrain, China, the Czech Republic, France, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the former Yugoslavia.

The Panel of Commissioners is headed by Ambassador Mohammed Benouna of Morocco, professor of law, member of the International Law Commission and president of Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. Other members of the Panel include Ms. Denise Bindschedler-Robert, Professor of International Law (Switzerland), and Ms. Fang Ping diplomat and expert in international humanitarian affairs and compensation procedures (China).

Other claims

Claims in categories A and C will be dealt with by two additional panels starting in February 1994, for presentation to the Governing Council in June 1994. There are some 50,000 claimants from 78 countries in these categories. The Commission has available $29 million in voluntary contributions and frozen Iraqi funds, currently held in the Compensation Fund. UNCC is responding to its mandate to render quick and effective justice to the victims of the invasion and ocupation of Kuwait. The UN Compensation Commission is located in Geneva and operates as a subsidiary organ of the Security Council.

EL SALVADOR OUTLOOK

PEACE PROCESS THREATENED

Three months before UN-supervised elections are scheduled to take place in El Salvador on 20 March 1994, a resurgence in violence in the country is threatening to disrupt the peace process.

The Secretary-General announced on 8 December that he would establish in cooperation with the Salvadoran Government a Commission to look into the recent killings and investigate politically motivated, illegal armed groups. It was established on the recommendation of the Commission on the Truth, set up by the UN in April 1991 to investigate violence in the country since 1980.

In his report to the Security Council, (S/26790, 23 Nov. 1993), the Secretary-General cites the warning of the Human Rights Division of the UN Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) of a "possible re-emergence of 'death squads'". These criminal groups affect the political climate and "undermine confidence in the peace process", it said.

ONUSAL is overseeing El Salvador's transition to peace after the 1992 Chapultepec Peace Accords signed in Mexico between the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) and the Salvadoran Government. That agreement formally ended 12 years of civil war. In his report, the Secretary-General expresses concern about problems which may threaten the Peace Accords: The Government's reluctance in creating a national civilian police force, stalled progress in legal reforms, delays in transfer of land and payments to former combatants on both sides.

FMLN Leader killed

Mario Lopez, a FMLN leader and candidate in the elections was murdered in San Salvador one day after the announcement of the creation of the new UN Commission. On 10 December, the Secretary-General issued a statement saying he found the killing "particularly alarming" so close to the creation of the Commission. He said he hoped the incident would be investigated "thoroughly and rapidly". ***(Press release SG/SM/5177, 10 Dec. 1993).***

Third Committee says violent acts hamper elections

The Third Committee has condemned the recent violence saying it is "inadmissible that such acts, perpetrated by a small minority, should jeopardize the progress made in implementing the agreements and hamper the holding of free elections in March 1994". (Draft Resolution (A/C.3/L.68, rev. 1). The Committee says it supports the creation of the Commission, which will initiate an "impartial, independent and credible investigation of illegal armed groups". ONUSAL is assisting in the investigation.

UN Commission set up to investigate illegal armed groups in El Salvador

The Commission members are Jose Leandro Echeverria and Juan Jeronimo Castillo, attorneys who represent the Government of El Salvador and were appointed by President Christiani; Mauricio Molina Fonseca, Counsel for the Defence of Human Rights; and Diego Carcia-Sayan, Director of the Human Rights Division of ONUSAL.

The Commission has its own institutional identity and its mission is to assist the Salvadoran Government in launching an in-depth investigation into illegal armed groups with political ends. It has a six-month mandate that began on 8 December, 1993. The Commission will report to the President of El Salvador and to the UN Secretary-General.

EL SALVADOR OUTLOOK

ONUSAL mandate extended for six-months period

The Security Council has extended the mandate of ONUSAL until 31 May, 1994, (resolution 888, 30 Nov. 1993). The Council will review the size and extent of the Mission beyond 31 May on the basis of the Secretary-General's recommendations, by 1 May 1994. ONUSAL was created in May 1991 to verify compliance by the parties with the San Jose Agreement on Human Rights. In January 1992, ONUSAL's mandate was enlarged in order to fulfil verification requirements of the 1992 Chapultepec Peace Accords. On 27 May 1993, the mandate was again enlarged to provide for observation of the elections in March.

DOCUMENTS ON EL SALVADOR:

Reports of the Secretary-General

ONUSAL, (S/26606, 20 Oct. 1993). This report describes the problems relating to voter registration in El Salvador, including the complexity of the system and the deficiencies in training of Supreme Electoral Tribunal personnel.

Further report of the Secretary-General on ONUSAL. (S/26581, 14 Oct. 1993). This report updates the Security Council on the recommendations of the Commission of the Truth and their implementation. The Commission had suggested that the "table be swept clean" before 20 November 1993, when the electoral campaign was to begin.

The situation in Central America. Note by the Secretary-General, (A/47/1012, S/26416, 15 September). This is the report of the Director of the Human Rights Division of ONUSAL for the period through 31 July 1993. **The situation in Central America. Addendum.** (A/47/1012/Add.1, 27 Oct. 1993).

The situation in Central America. (A/48/586, 11 Nov. 1993). The international community should remain a prominent contributor to the economic success by supporting Central America's own commitment to development, says this report. Central America emerged from the difficult decade of the 1980s with a dynamic institutional framework; a comprehensive agenda of social, economic and other reforms; and an active partnership with the international community through several mechanisms for cooperation, it says. Also see: **Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America.** (A/48/405, 11 Oct. 1993)

UPDATE ON UN PEACE-KEEPING

The DPI publication updates information on 18 ongoing peace-keeping missions (DPI/1306, Rev. 2).

PEACE-KEEPING POSTER

A fold-out poster with a question and answers format on UN peace-keeping missions is now available (DPI/1409). The poster is targeted for distributions to high schools.

SMALL ISLAND STATES

GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND STATES 25 April - 6 May 1994

SMALL ISLANDS: BIG ISSUES

Many Heads of State or Government are expected to lead their delegations to the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, scheduled to take place on the Caribbean island of Barbados from 25 April to 6 May, 1994.

The Conference, called for by the Earth Summit — the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development — will underscore the critical importance of such issues as global warming and climate change and deforestation "to the rest of the planet", says the Conference's Outreach Coordinator Lelei LeLaulu. According to a FAO study, the regions with the largest forest areas are in Latin America and the Caribbean, with 918 million hectares, which translates into 56 per cent of the land area. Africa has 527 million hectares, 24 per cent of the land area, and Asia has 311 million hectares, covering 35 per cent of its land area.

Other key areas in which the Conference will recommend action are, natural disasters, such as tropical storms, to which small islands are highly vulnerable; the question of waste management which poses a serious problem for many small islands because of rapid development, lack of sewage treatment facilities and limited land areas for landfill; management of fisheries and coastal zones; fresh water resources which are threatened by increasing population and rising sea levels, and land use. The Conference will examine the ecological and economic vulnerability of the small island states and propose solutions which are expected to have global ripple effect (see backgrounder attached).

WHERE ARE THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES?

The following list includes States only, no territories:

AFRICA

Cape Verde
Comoros
Mauritius
Sao Tome and Principe
Seychelles

Arab States

Bahrain

EUROPE

Cyprus
Malta

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Cook Islands
Fed. States of Micronesia
Fiji
Kiribati
Maldives
Grenada
Marshall Islands
Nauru
Niue
Netherlands Antilles
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Tokelau
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Antigua and Barbuda
Aruba
Bahamas
Barbados
Cuba
Haiti
Jamaica
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago
United States Virgin Islands

A number of islands, which are not independent States and receive UNDP funding, are also interested in the Conference:

Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, Belize, the only non-island State.

SMALL ISLAND STATES

PREPCOM I DOCUMENTS:

Report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.167/PC/2) on preparations for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.167/PC/10 and Corr.1) on the sustainable development of small island developing states.

Note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.167/PC/4) containing the report of the Regional Technical Meeting for Indian and Pacific Oceans, Port Vila, Vanuatu, 31 May 1993.

Note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.167/PC/8) containing the report of the Regional Technical Meeting of the Atlantic/Caribbean/Mediterranean, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 12-16 July 1993.

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/48/36)

THE EARTH SUMMIT VIDEO

This fast-moving, colourful 28-minute feature takes a close-up look at the Earth Summit. The video is available in all UNIC libraries in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. It provides an overview of the major issues of sustainable development discussed at United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The important role of non-governmental organizations is showcased with lively footage from the Rio NGO forum.

The video is also available for purchase in 1/2 inch VHS format (PAL and NTSC) in English, French and Spanish, at the price of $30.00.

DPI and Other Materials

A Conference brochure and poster are in the final stages of production, and will be shipped to UNICs in January. A Conference press kit and fact sheet are also being developed by DPI. The first of a series of FAX ALERTS has been sent out. A copy is enclosed with this Update.

For news of developments in Conference planning, UNICs may contact Mr. LeLaulu directly:

Conference on Small Island States
Department for Policy Coordination
and Sustainable Development
Room S-2977 E
TEL: (212) 963-7074 **FAX: (212) 963-5935**

UNICs may also contact DPI's Information Officer for Sustainable Development:

Pragati Pascale: (212) 963-6870

DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS ON THE EARTH SUMMIT:

Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 Vols. I-III) with resolutions by the Conference, Proceedings of the Conference and Statements made by heads of State or Government.

Final texts of Agenda 21 The Global Programme of Action for Sustainable Development; The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Statement of Forest Principles. (DPI/1344 April 1993). Agenda 21 is also available to UNICs on diskette.

UNIFEM Booklet: Agenda 21 - An Easy Reference booklet to the Specific Recommendations on Women and sustainable development as contained in the UNCED document. Produced by the United Nations Development Fund for Women, it quotes UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong: "There is a pressing need to decentralize women's issues and to ensure the incorporation of their collective perspectives, experiences and contributions to sustainable development". (E,F,S.)

By Yvonne Duncan, Regional Desk Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean

NEW MATERIALS

UN DOCUMENTS ON UN MISSIONS

Reports of the Secretary-General

Improving the capacity of the United Nations for Peace-keeping. (A/48/403/Add.1 & 2, S/26450/Add. 1 & 2, 2 Nov. 1993). These reports contain the replies received from Australia, France, Namibia, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sweden, Thailand and New Zealand on improving the UN's capacity for peace-keeping.

Use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations. (A/48/707, 14 Dec. 1993). In his report, the Secretary-General says that there is a need for outside recruitment to UN peace-keeping operations. The new generation of peace-keeping missions requires qualified and readily available civilian personnel, he explains.

Afghanistan

Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan. (A/48/323, 24 Sept. 1993). The report calls on the international community to "act quickly" to avoid a worsening of the humanitarian situation. The Secretary-General will launch a new appeal to help cover urgent requirements.

Angola

UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), (S/26872, 14 Dec. 1993). The Secretary-General recommends to extend the mandate of UNAVEM II for another three months, until 15 March, 1994. He says that while the political negotiations proceed at Lusaka, it is important to intensify humanitarian activities in Angola.

UNAVEM II, (S/26872, 3 Dec, 1993) The ongoing negotiations in Lusaka and the Secretary-General's proposal to postpone sanctions against UNITA are the the focus of this report

International Assistance for the Economic Rehabilitation of Angola. (A/48/473, 8 Oct. 1993). Action taken by relief agencies during 1993. The fighting has constrained the ability of the UN to bring aid to the Angolans. Several locations with a desperate need for emergency assistance remain out of reach.

Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General in connection with the Security Council's comprehensive reassessment of the UN Operation in Cyprus, (S/26777, 22 Nov. 1993). The SG recommends extension of UNFICYP until 15 June, 1994. Since December 1990, the strength of UNFICYP has been reduced by 43.6 per cent as a result of decisions by troop contributing countries. The General Assembly has recently adopted a resolution (A/RES/47/236, 21 Oct. 1993) asking for voluntary contributions from Member States to UNFICYP.

Georgia

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) (A/48/699, 6 Dec. 1993). The total cost of UNOMIG for the period from 1 February to 31 July 1994 is estimated at $1.5 million, according to this report. The Security Council established UNOMIG under resolution 858 (24 August 1993) with up to 88 military observers to verify the cease-fire, investigate violations of the cease-fire and to report to the Secretary-General.

L'ONU fait le point: MONUG (DPI/1401, Oct. 1993). Mission d'observation des Nations Unies en Georgie.

Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the UN Mission in Haiti, (S/26802, 26 Nov. 1993). The Secretary-General's report on progress made on the implementation of the governors Island Agreement and the political accords contained in the "New York pact".

The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti (A/48/532/Add.1, 18 Nov. 1993) Report of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti warning of increased human rights violations.

The report of the Secretary-General on the question concerning Haiti (S/26724, 12 Nov. 1993). This report describes the meeting on 5-6 November in Port-au-Prince between the Secretary-General's Special Representative, the Haitian Government and four representatives of the "Friends of the Secretary-General". Representatives of the military were absent at the meeting.

Liberia

Report of the Secretary-general on the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (S/26868, 13 Dec. 1993). UNOMIL was set up under Security Council resolution 866 of 22 September 1993, for a period until 16 Dec. In his report, the Secretary-General recommends that the mandate of UNOMIL should continue and says that he will provide more information on the elections, "which the transitional Government should be able to hold during the first half of 1994".

Financing of the UN Observer Mission in Liberia. (A/48/592, 19 Nov. 1993). The report recommends the appropriation and apportionment if $47 million covering the operation of UNOMIL for the period from 22 September 1993 to 21 April 1994.

Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia. (A/48/392, 22 Sept. 1993). Emergency assistance carried out in Liberia since October 1992. Since December 1990, donations of $146.7 million have been received in response to UN appeals.

Somalia

Further report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of paragraph 19 of resolution 814 (1993) and paragraph A 5 of resolution 865 (1993) (S/26738, 12 Nov. 1993). The Secretary-General recommends that the mandate of the UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) be extended until 31 March. In his concluding remarks he says that it is evident that the overwhelming majority of the Somali people want the UN to continue to support the progress of reconciliation and rehabilitation agreed upon at Addis Ababa in January and March 1993.

Emergency assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia. (A/48/504, 29 Oct. 1993). The reponse to the UN appeal for funds for the 1993 Relief and Rehabilitation Programme has been disappointing, with only 20 per cent of the requirements met so far, the Secretary-General says. However, starvation has largely been eradicated; children are given

NEW MATERIALS

immunization; schools are opening and food production has exceeded expectations. Unless these encouraging developments are supported by the international community, the situation could quickly be reversed, the Secretary-General warns.

South Africa

Fourth progress report on the implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its destructive consequences in Southern Africa, (A/48/691, 6 Dec. 1993). In this report, the Secretary-General warns that the increasing violence continues to pose a threat to the peace process in South Africa. He calls for cooperation between the Government and all the parties in the country to resolve any remaining difficulties peacefully in time for the elections on 27 April 1994.

Coordinated approach by the UN system on questions relating to South Africa (A/48/467/Add. 1, 1 Nov. 1993). The Secretary-General reports that the first multiracial and democratic elections this spring might result in greater involvement by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC) with all refugees and returnees in South Africa, including Mozambicans.

Situation of Human Rights in South Africa (A/48/525, 2 Nov. 1993) The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on southern Africa of the Commission on Human Rights reports that in August 1993, 554 deaths were recorded as a result of the violence in South Africa. During the first seven months of 1993, 2,000 people were killed.

Western Sahara

The situation concerning Western Sahara. (S/26797, 24 Nov. 1993)
As of 1 November 1993, the military component of the UN Observer Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) totalled 324 personnel. In this report, the Secretary-General says he hopes to be able to report to the Security Council about the holding of elections in Western Sahara by mid-1994. He proposes that the existing strength of MINURSO be maintained until that report.

Uganda-Rwanda

Second report on the UN Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR). (S/26878, 15 Dec. 1993). In his report, the Secretary-General recommends that extension of the UNOMUR for a period of six months, until 21 June 1994. As of 10 December 1993, UNOMUR was composed of 81 UN military observers with headquarters in Kabale, 20 kilometres north of the Uganda/Rwanda border.

Financing of UNOMUR (A/48/636, 24 Nov. 1993). The report recommends the appropriation and apportionment of $4.4 million for the operation of UNOMUR for the period from 22 June to 21 December 1993.

UN RADIO

Palestinian Women on their status. Programmes on Women, no. 44, Nov. 1993. Dur. 14'15". This programme describes how violence against Palestinian women is often forgotten in the battle for the rights of the Palestinian people.

UN IN ACTION - VIDEO

Brazilian Company takes to the streets to create innovative children's television. (20 Dec. 1993, Programme no. 311, Dur. 3'11", E, A, S, F and R). In Brazil, TV VIVA is presenting its viewers with a different type of children's fair. The television company is interviewing the children themselves to broadcast the harsh realities affecting millions of homeless boys and girls to its many viewers.

"Humanitarian nightmare" overwhelms war-torn Angola (13 Dec. 1993, Programme no. 310, Dur: 2'59", E, A, S, F and R) In war-torn Angola where millions of people face starvation, UN and Government convoys are trying to get to the masses with desperately needed relief supplies. Compounding the plight of the relief workers is the fact that the conflict and its resulting carnage has gone largely unreported by the electronic media making it extremely difficult for the UN to reach its international appeal target of $200 million.

South Koreans rebuild major road artery in Somalia (6 Dec. 1993 Programme no. 309, Dur. 3'09". E, A, F, S, and R) Under the UN flag in Somalia, an engineering contingent from South Korea experiences their first ever overseas peace-keeping mission. In the town of Balad, the engineers are reconstructing one of the country's major roads which had been ruined during the civil war. They will also assist in drilling wells with the objective of supplying clean water to thousands of households and farmers.

UNHCR foresees a bleak winter in ex-Yugoslavia. (6 Dec. 1993, Programme no.308, Dur. 19", E, A, F, S and R) As winter approaches, UNHCR relief workers and UN peace-keepers are faced with the challenge of delivering food and emergency supplies to millions of people in the former Yugolsavia. With continued fighting, it has become considerably dangerous for convoys to reach relief points safely. Many wonder about the catastrophe confronting the people if they are unable to receive the much needed assistance.

UN force Monitors borders to former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, (29 Nov. 1993, Programme No. 307, Dur. 2'53", E, A, F, S and R) At the request of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UN peace-keepers monitor and observe activities along the borders with Serbia and Albania. An American contingent has joined the UN force in this preventive mission. This marks the first time that American soldiers are taking part in monitoring activity with the United Nations.

DPI PROGRAMME UPDATE
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